



ARAB BANK GROUP

Profile

Arab Bank Plc is owned by approximately 3,300 shareholders from all Arab countries. It was established in 1929 in Jerusalem-Palestine. The bank started operations on July 14, 1930 with a paid-up capital of Palestinian Pounds 15,000 (at that time, a Palestinian Pound equaled US\$ 5). By the end of December 1991, the Group's equity was more than US\$ 950 million. In 1948, Arab Bank General Management was moved to Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Later the Bank was reconstituted in Jordan as a public shareholding company. Currently, Arab Bank Group has a worldwide and diversified network of more than 270 branches. Arab Bank Plc is one of the principal financial institutions in the Arab world and ranks among the leading international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets. It is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies, and other international financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial real estate lending and international banking.

Arab Bank Group employs a prudent asset management policy which is centered on selecting a prime loan portfolio and, at the same time, maintaining high liquidity. On June 30, 1992, the liquidity ratio (cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets) amounted to 65.6%. By the end of June 1992, Arab Bank Group's equity amounted to 6.6% of total assets. The capital adequacy ratio for the Group, measured according to the Basel Committee rule, was around 13%. Moreover, total equity corresponded to more than 21% of the loan portfolio, placing the Bank in a very sound financial position. During the first half of 1992, Arab Bank Group achieved a 12% growth in its assets. Total assets of the Group reached US\$ 14.7 billion. Most of the Group's external sources of funds are composed of stable customer deposits which give the Group ample room to manage its assets efficiently and reflect the customers' long-standing confidence and loyalty. Total deposits at the end of June 1992 reached US\$ 13.4 billion.

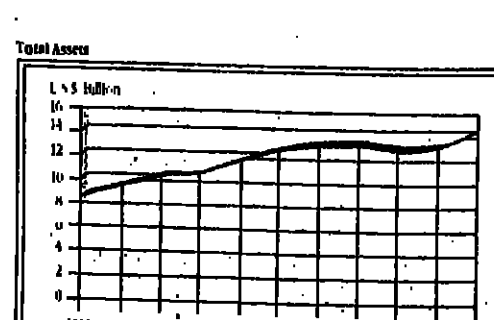
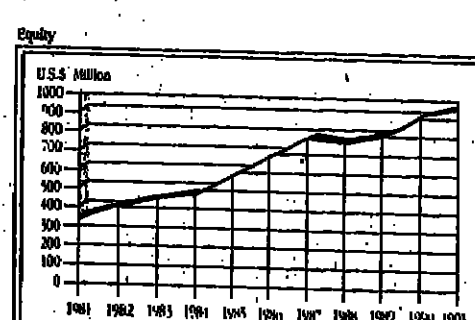
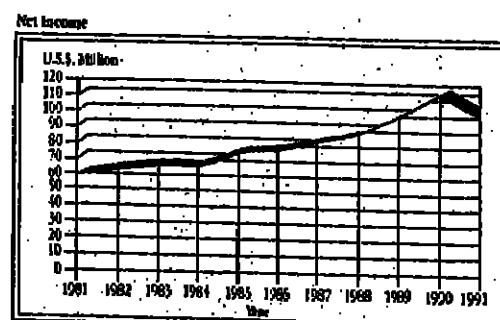
Arab Bank Group looks to the future with great optimism and determination. The Group plans to continue to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab world and at the same time, it will endeavour to enhance its position as a major financial institution in the international markets.

ARAB BANK GROUP

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1992 and 1991

Assets	30/06/1992 US\$ ('000)	30/06/1991 US\$ ('000)	Liabilities	30/06/1992 US\$ ('000)	30/06/1991 US\$ ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	8,361,143	7,712,421	Deposits and other accounts	13,368,503	12,012,182
Securities and investments	1,256,132	886,831	Acceptances	144,038	96,909
Loans and advances	4,340,583	3,878,744	Accrued interest payable	49,140	57,971
Customers' liability on acceptances	144,038	96,909	Other liabilities	152,194	122,656
Investments in associated companies	263,562	204,995	Total Liabilities	13,713,875	12,289,718
Premises and equipment	82,038	81,015	Shareholders' Equity		
Accrued interest receivable	90,767	93,485	Capital	139,246	118,905
Other assets	115,853	180,297	Statutory reserve	88,989	78,365
Total Assets	14,654,116	13,134,697	General reserve	591,222	547,604
Customers' liability on			Voluntary reserve	115,126	122,666
guarantees and letters of credit	3,274,459	2,508,555	Reserves with associated		
			companies	174,734	163,579
			Retained earnings	1,162	559
			Total	1,110,479	1,031,678
			Translation adjustments	(170,238)	(186,699)
			Total Shareholders' Equity	940,241	844,979
			Total Liabilities and		
			Shareholders' Equity	14,654,116	13,134,697
			Guarantees and letters of credit	3,274,459	2,508,555
			Total	17,928,575	15,643,252

Net profit for the period ended June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1991 was included in "Other Liabilities".



ARAB BANK

Star Institutions, Subsidiaries and Associated Companies

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Vienna

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Geneva

Wholly owned subsidiary

Percentage of ownership

	%
Arab Tundun Bank	64.24
Arab Bank Maroc	50
Onan Arab Bank S.A.O.	49
Ajsh National Bank, Saudi Arabia	49
Nigeria-Arab Bank Ltd.	40
UBAE Arab German Bank	37.45

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The Star

Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 27 AUGUST — 2 SEPTEMBER 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 23

أسبوعية سياسية مستقلة



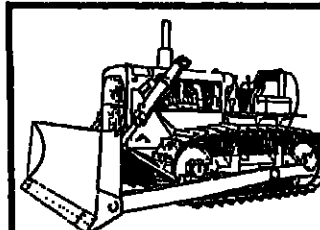
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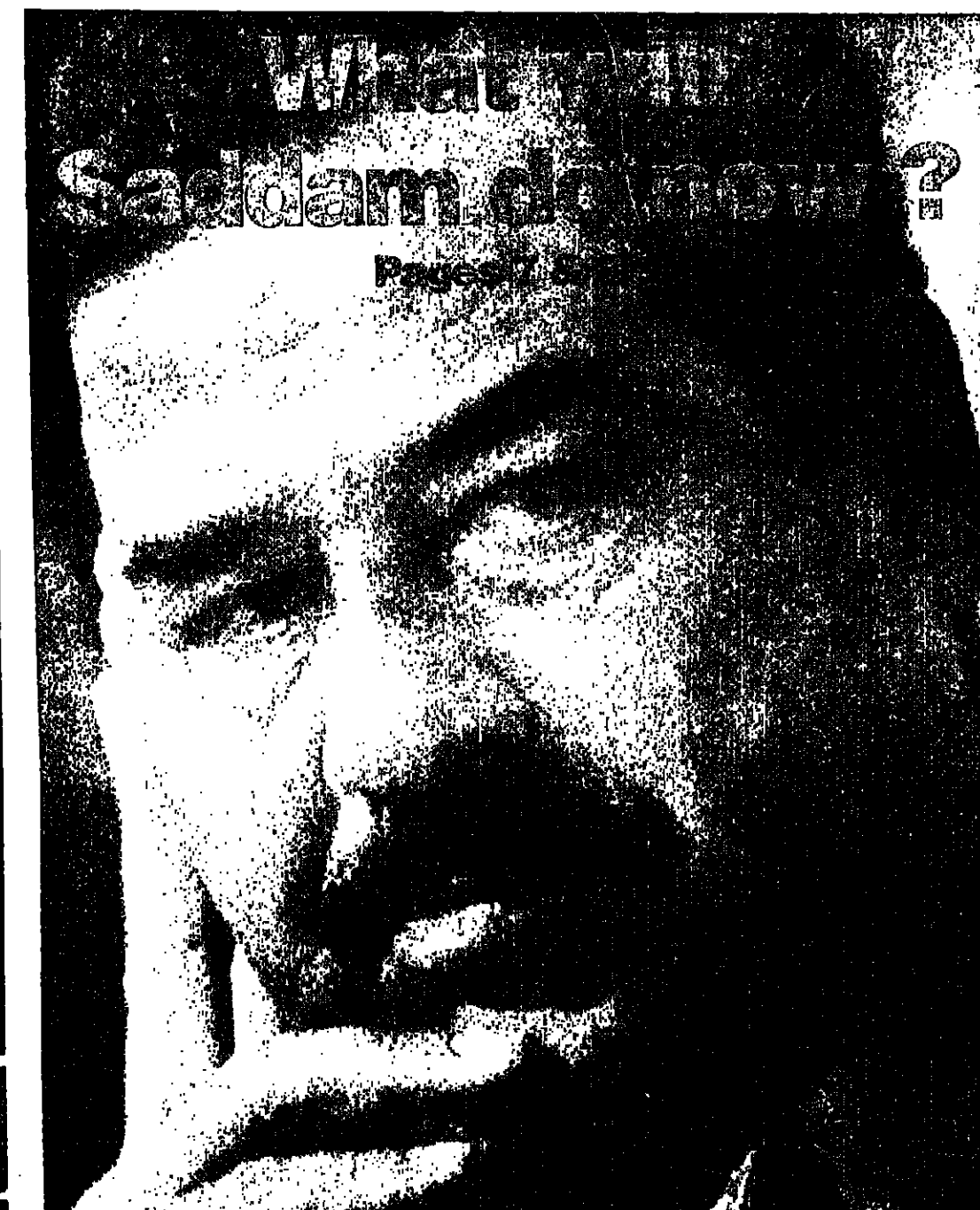
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ECONOMIC
PERSPECTIVES
AL QAD AL INTISADI

A Fortnightly Economic Newsletter on Jordan & the
Region Published by Info-Media International

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Jordanians jubilant over King's recovery

Jordanians met with jubilation news of the successful operation which His Majesty King Hussein underwent last Thursday. Doctors at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, removed the left kidney of the King and cleared a blockage of his urinary tract. More tissue tests were conducted on the King after the operation. The King will leave hospital this week.

Before the operation King Hussein sent a message to the Jordanian people through HRH Crown Prince Hassan thanking them for their concern and support and wishing them all the best. He urged them to continue the democratic process. The King received telephone calls from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and UN Secretary General Butros Ghali. He received cables of good wishes from world leaders including the queen of England, king of Spain, emperor of Japan, emir of Bahrain and Arab and Muslim officials.

A Jordanian delegation from the upper and lower houses of Parliament flew to Minnesota to convey to the King the good wishes of all Jordanians for his recovery. Jordanian newspapers wished the King long life and good health. Jordanians from all walks of life sent cables, published advertisements and made gestures to celebrate the King's speedy recovery.

Before the King's operation, Jordanians privately voiced their anxiety over the state of the King's health. Public rallies are expected to take place throughout the Kingdom to celebrate the King's return to Jordan. In Zarqa governorate, the Land Transport Association announced a free health day on Wednesday to celebrate the King's successful operation. Doctors volunteered their services and treated patients free of charge while pharmaceutical companies donated medicines.

Kuwaitis ask for Jordan's help

Not all Kuwaitis are against Jordan. This is the message brought to Jordan by a leading Kuwaiti lawyer representing a group of active Kuwaiti nationalists. The lawyer met with senior Jordanian officials last week and asked for Jordan's intervention on behalf of Kuwaiti families with Iraqi authorities to release Kuwaiti detainees held in Iraq. The lawyer also expressed the sentiments of many Kuwaiti intellectuals regarding the state of inter-Arab relations in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. He said his group

is working for better relations between Jordan and Kuwait saying that not all Kuwaitis are happy with their government's attitude towards Jordan. He praised the role of King Hussein in mediating an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and hoped Kuwaitis and Iraqis will overcome the present stage and learn to live as neighbors. The lawyer was well received by Jordanian officials. It was agreed to hold an informal gathering of Jordanian and Kuwaiti intellectuals in Amman before the end of the year to pave the way for better relations between the two countries.

Exports to the Gulf rebound

Jordan's exports to the Gulf countries have rebounded according to a senior Ministry of Industry and Trade official. While the summer heat failed to thaw ice jamming political relations between Jordan and most Gulf countries, it certainly succeeded in normalizing trade exports to these countries including Saudi Arabia.

Economic Perspectives (EP) reports this week that Jordanian and Egyptian officials will meet in Cairo in September to negotiate a new trade protocol while a similar arrangement should take place with Syria during an expected visit by Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Abdallah Nsour to Damascus early next month. But in spite of the increase in Jordanian exports this year, *Ad Dur* reported that the Kingdom's trade balance showed a deficit of JD 294 million in the first quarter of this year compared to JD 139 million in the first quarter of 1991.

ESCWA meeting brings Arabs closer

Delegates from Arab countries who differed with Jordan during the Gulf crisis will participate in a conference in Amman on Sunday to be held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan. The five-day 16th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will be attended by delegates from 13 member states including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Palestine and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Members will review the commission's activities since May 1989, review work program for 1992-93 and a medium-term plan for the period from 1992 to 1997, and study the economic impact of the 1992 Single European Market on the ESCWA region. "It will also be an opportunity to talk about politics and inter-Arab relations," commented one Jordanian diplomat.



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NRA encourages private sector investments

NATURAL RESOURCES Authority (NRA) Director Mr Kamal Jreisat is optimistic about the commercial development of Jordan's natural minerals and sees a main role for private sector investments in these enterprises. *Economic Perspectives* (EP), an economic newsletter on Jordan and the region published the following interview with Mr Jreisat in its August 15 issue. Following are selected excerpts.

Q: How would you summarize the past and present roles of the NRA in Jordan's economy?

A: The Natural Resources Authority through its exploration programs has studied thoroughly the following metallic and non-metallic raw materials:

■ **Metallic ores:** copper, manganese, and iron.

■ **Nonmetallic raw materials and constituents of brines:** discovery of approximately 1 billion ton of phosphates in central Jordan and in Shidiya in southeast Jordan in addition to Dead Sea brines, cement raw materials, glass sand, kaolin, gypsum, barite, basalt, bentonite, brick raw materials, bromine, building stones, clay, decoration stones, dolomite, feldspar, garnet, limestone, magnesium, marble, mica, mineral pigments, pyrite, quartz, rock salt, rubidium, rutile, sand, gravel, crushed stone (aggregates), semiprecious stones, sulfur, travertine, tripoli, tuff and zeolite.

■ **Energy resources:** crude oil and natural gas, oil shale, tar sand, residual oil and asphalt, ge-

othermal energy and nuclear fuels.

Based on the results obtained many industrial rocks are mined and produced nowadays to meet local market demand and for export purposes. Besides that several mining industries like ceramics, glass, calcium carbonate, rock wool and bricks were established to produce products depending mainly on local raw materials.

Total earnings from production and marketing of minerals and mineral products for the last three years are as follows:

	(million JD)
1989	468.8
1990	437.5
1991	455.4

Q: Could you comment on Jordan's potential mineral sources of energy e.g. oil shale?

A: NRA carried out detailed exploration programs for the following:

■ **Oil shale:** Several oil shale deposits have been investigated sufficiently for exploitation especially in central Jordan.

The total reserves of oil shale, exploitable by opencast mining methods in easily accessible are-



Kamal Jreisat

as, and proven by the end of 1987, amount to 36.7 billion tons of extractable oil.

For the purpose of selecting the most economical utilization process, two deposits have been chosen for conducting technical and economical feasibility studies: El-Lajjun deposit for oil shale retorting, and the Sultani deposit for direct combustion for electrical power generation.

The feasibility studies showed that the technology is viable either to retort oil out of the oil shales, or to burn them directly for generating electricity, but economically it is not viable due to

the high cost of oil extracted from the oil shale rocks.

There is a hope in the future for utilization of the oil shale rocks for retorting or direct combustion. This depends upon improvement of the oil shales technology, and prices of oil in the world market.

■ **Tar sand:** NRA proved the occurrence of 35 million tons of tar sand in Wadi Issal area east of the Dead Sea as a result of detailed exploration. The average oil content in the tar sand deposits is 9%. Evaluation of this deposit is still in progress.

Q: Turning to other minerals, what is the situation concerning metal deposits (e.g. copper)?

A: Metallic minerals in Jordan are limited. NRA studied and evaluated the following:

■ **Copper:** Copper ore was mined on both sides of Wadi Araba since pre-historic times and this continued with some interruptions until the early medieval period. Copper mineralization of varying concentrations occurs within an approximately 70 km long and up to 15 km wide area along the eastern side of Wadi Araba specially in Finan and surrounding areas. Fifty-five million

tons were calculated as proved reserves with an average 1.4 per cent content of copper. NRA conducted two feasibility studies to build a copper smelter with a capacity of 10,000 tons annually refined copper. As a result of these studies, it was found that for the time being it is not feasible to utilize the copper deposit due to the low prices of refined copper in the world market.

■ **Manganese:** The manganese ore bodies appear in the east side of the northern Wadi Araba, in Wadi Dana and in the eastern and northern Finan areas. From the extensive exploration activities carried out by NRA, reserves are estimated to be approximately 1.5 million tons assaying 38 per cent Mn and 1.4% Cu. A rough estimate of the possible reserves in the Finan area indicates the existence of about 5 million tons of ore having a grade in the order of 35 per cent to 45 per cent Mn and 1.0 to 1.5 per cent Cu. NRA at present is working on re-evaluation of the manganese ores in order to examine the possibility of utilizing these deposits.

■ **Iron:** The only iron ore deposit in Jordan is located approximately 70 km north-west of Amman in a place called Warda Caves. This deposit was mined extensively during Ayubid-Mameluke times. The estimated reserves amount to 561,000 tons of ore, not including the ore mined in ancient times. This amount does not justify utilization of this ore deposit economically.

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A NEW STANDARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Women federation struggling for its future

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

MEMBERS OF the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) are divided in their reactions to last month's Supreme Court verdict issued to settle a four-year-long controversy over membership. The court abolished federation regulations dating to 1989 regarding the recruitment of members on individual basis and declared the federation's elected executive board illegal. The court ruled that members must belong to social organizations which are

registered with the Ministry of Social Development.

"By (making) this decision, the court has deprived 1200 women from their right to federation membership," said Dr Halifa Abu Ghazaleh, former president of the now defunct executive committee of GFJW.

The problem goes back to 1989 when the federation's constitution was amended and a new by-law was introduced permitting women who are concerned with women causes to join the federation on an independent platform.

Dr Abu Ghazaleh said this

amendment boosted the number of GFJW members to 15,000 within two years.

"The court's decision means that we will have to close all our working committees and training and rehabilitation centers, which were established to meet cultural and educational needs," she said. "It will reduce the federation's role to charitable work."

Mrs Naela Rashdan, a lawyer and a former member of the executive committee appointed to supervise the upcoming elections, disagrees. "There is a need for a legislative and organizational re-



Abu Ghazaleh

view of the federation's objectives which must be aimed at developing women culture, social and political consciousness, and making them capable of defending their own rights in the society," she told *The Star*.



Mrs Rashdan

"It's been 10 years of anarchy," said Rashdan. "The relationship between the federation and its members and committees has become formal and mechanical due to bad planning, absence of cooperation and lack of real administration."

She said that individual members were recruited to serve the personal interests of those in leading positions. Mrs Rashdan added that most federation members have no understanding of their role in the federation.

Mrs Rashdan along with other members took the federation to court and argued against the legality of the constitutional amendments.

With the advent of democratic changes in Jordan in 1989, forces within the federation began calling for a revision of the federation's law and the need for a new definition of the federation's activities. This meant revising the federation's original law dating to 1981, which regarded the federation as a charitable organization.

Those calling for reform wanted to enlarge the role of the federation so as to "enlighten" Jordanian women about their democratic rights in all establishments, train them to carry out their democratic roles and prepare them to elect and be elected to associations, national bodies and the Lower House.

The federation was established in 1981 as an umbrella for women societies, groups and individuals in Jordan. Mrs Rashdan said quantity over quality is not something to boast about. The constitutional amendments of 1989, were in her view illegal and allowed for personal manipulation.

According to Mrs Rashdan, the best solution to the federation's constitutional ineffectiveness is the restoration of the original law and verification of the organizations' programs either by the Ministry of Social Development or the Ministry of Interior as a pre-condition before applying for federation membership.

She sees these conditions as the only way to provide a sound platform for the federation's development away from personal manipulation and corruption.

For Dr Abu Ghazaleh, the court's verdict is the beginning of a new battle for legislative reform with in the federation.

"We do not have to amend old laws in order to respond to the new demands of the federation," she said. "Why not introduce a completely new legislative approach?"

Dr Abu Ghazaleh said the federation should change its status from a charitable organization under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development into a social-political organization registered at the Ministry of Interior, with full legislative authority to carry out an economic, political and cultural role in the society. ■

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Mamluk carpets show rare ancient talent

By Naseem Abdallah

A TRIP to Giza, the Pyramids district in Cairo, reveals old and young men hard at work in workshops that churn out rugs and textiles mainly for the wealthier Egyptian classes and western tourists. Modern Egyptian weaving varies in design and quality and, although some exquisite pieces are still made, none compare with the Mamluk carpets that brought Egypt fame and fortune from the 13th to the 16th century. Very few of the Mamluk carpets survive but the ones that do have established the Mamluk period as the golden age of weaving in Egypt.

One of the best collections of classical Egyptian carpets happens to be in Washington D.C., at the Textile Museum, and it was the basis of a recent exhibition exploring aspects of geometry and design in carpets woven during the Mamluk period, from 1250 to 1517, and during the Ottoman period from the 16th to the 17th century.

Featured in the show were 35 of the Textile Museum's magnificent, rarely seen Mamluk and Ottoman carpets along with loans from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, The Walters Art Gallery and private collections.

What makes the Mamluk weaving unusual is the extraordinary origin of the rulers of the time. The Mamluk Sultans were of slave origin who, after the collapse of the Ayyubid state in 1250, seized power in Egypt and went to expand their influence in the area. They succeeded in establishing a vast empire which encompassed Egypt, Syria and Palestine.

The Mamluks were not only expansionists but also played a crucial role in the course of history. They defeated the last of the Crusaders and checked the westward aggression of the Mongols.

By Sybil Bernier-Hart

IN THE world of carpets and textiles Michael Franes has the reputation of a savant with an eye for a good thread. He is the owner of The Textile Gallery in London and the co-founder of the International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC), which brings together connoisseurs, collectors and dealers and is scheduled to meet in June 1993 in Hamburg.

He is also the current chairman of Textura, a group of eight European galleries that has taken the centre stage in the realm of fine carpets and textiles, to the envy of many of those outside it.

The group has been accused of being "exclusive" but its members maintain that in order to pursue excellence the group must be small.

Textura is particularly strong on carpets but claims a serious commitment to all things textile. "It's a common commitment," Franes said in a recent interview with *Eastern Art Report*.

"We as Textura members found that when we held exhibitions in our own galleries and introduced expensive catalogues or when we exhibited as individuals in fairs, there was never enough interest in the subject. In our own galleries we usually saw our old customers plus a few other new people. To some degree we were preaching to the converted," he explained.

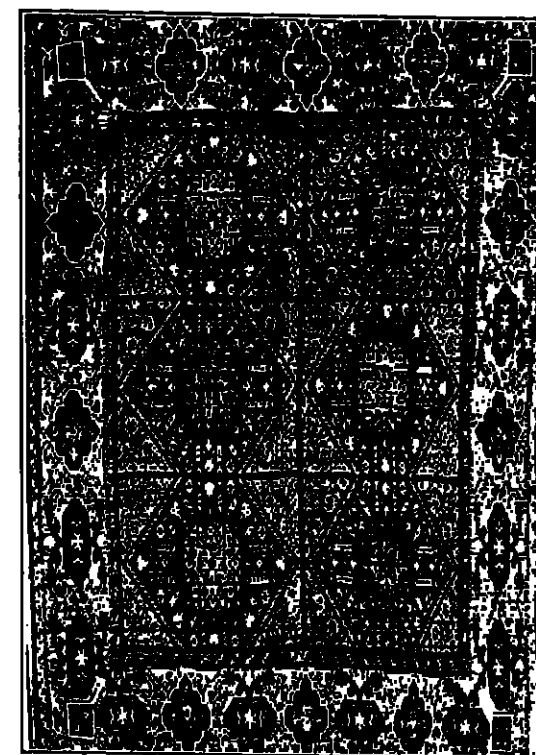
We learnt initially from Pictura, which was coming together in Maastricht of dealers in Dutch paintings of the 17th century.

Not surprisingly, Cairo soon became one of the wealthiest cities in the Near East, radiating metropolitan charm and attracting hundreds of intellectuals and artists from around the world. As the seat of the caliphate, it became the most prestigious capital in the Islamic world.

The Mamluks encouraged the arts liberally, patronizing various disciplines and giving sanctuary and support to the talented, irrespective of religion or creed. By the 15th century a carpet-weaving industry had been well established in the capital and produced some of the finest carpets ever woven. These carpets are distinguished from all other carpet weaving traditions. The distinction derives in part from the dominance of geometric form in their design and the deft manipulation of a predominantly red, blue and green colour palette.

The technical skill of Mamluk weavers is attested to by the equal number of knots per linear unit of measurement in both vertical and horizontal directions, enabling the execution of perfect squares, circles and stars distinguished from all other carpet weaving traditions. The distinction derives in part from the dominance of geometric form in their design and the deft manipulation of a predominantly red, blue and green colour palette.

The technical skill of Mamluk weavers is attested to by the equal number of knots per linear unit of measurements in both vertical and horizontal directions, enabling the execution of perfect squares, circles and stars without distortion. Although Mamluk car-



pets are the oldest complete rugs in existence, their origins are a mystery. The answers to such questions as who made them, why they were made and for whom remain open to speculation.

With the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in 1517, much of the administrative and cultural structure created by the Mamluks remained relatively unchanged. Gradually, however, Cairene carpets began to show the influence of the tastes of the new Turkish ruling class.

The Mamluk style was incorporated and adapted to the emerg-

ing Ottoman imperial style, evolving from geometric elements to ornate floral forms, which developed into a sophisticated decorative style by the 19th century.

This style, which determined the ambience of Istanbul in the 19th century, was recaptured by the Textile Museum in another show entitled *An Old Turkish House*. As part of the exhibition, the museum recreated an old Turkish house featuring costumes, carpets, metalwork, calligraphy and furniture of the period.

Period room settings, including a living room, boudoir and bath, presented the costumes, carpets and textiles in a cultural and functional context.

In the living room, crimson velvet divans embroidered with gold line the walls. Typical of the multi-functional nature of rooms in a Turkish home, the divans were used for sleeping as well as seating. Seated on the divan, a woman playing an oud was dressed in a richly embroidered kaftan and veil, clothing which would have

been reserved for special occasions. On the floor in front of a tiled fireplace, a gleaming brass brazier was placed on ornately patterned rugs.

In the boudoir, a bride in a traditional wedding dress of silk satin embroidered with metallic threads was seated on the bed surrounded by the embroidered textiles and garments of her trousseau. A child's cradle was covered with scarves trimmed with oya, the traditional needlework once used by women to express their emotions and social status. Traditionally, a new bride did not speak for several months after entering the household of her husband, but could communicate her emotions through the embroidered motifs of her headdress.

A scarf fringed with red pepper motifs indicated that the bride and her husband were on bad terms and "as bitter as cayenne peppers." With a fringe of roses, however, a new bride would convey to her in laws that she was pregnant. The bath was of great importance in the Turkish home and in Turkish life. The marble-covered bath recreated in *An Old Turkish House* would have indicated great wealth in a home of the period. According to religious tradition, each person was required to bathe every day, and the towels and silk wrappings used in the bathing ritual were an important part of the bride's dowry.

Although the special displays were designed to foster an appreciation of the historic weaving and embroidery traditions in Turkey, taken with the Mamluk carpet exhibition, they demonstrated how the two cultures of Egypt and Turkey had fused and then come apart and developed independently in the past few hundred years. ■

Academic File

Naseem Abdallah is a writer and researcher based in Washington, D.C.

Raising a flag for Eastern textiles

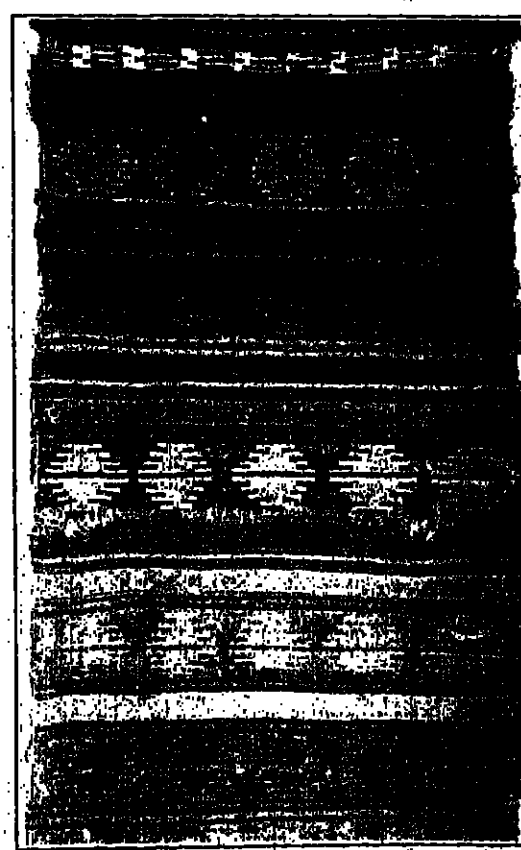
They held their fair each year and, because 40 or 50 of them exhibited side by side, the fair attracted many visitors. We felt we could do the same for the textile arts."

It all started some five years when Franes had been exhibiting in Maastricht for two or three years. He was invited to join the board of trustees that managed the fair to build up textile arts and give them a special place in the fair.

Maastricht is the only fair in the world which is owned and administered by a non-profit making foundation for the benefit of the exhibitors. As a result, the square metre price is kept low enough to allow dealers to afford the space to exhibit properly.

A portion of the hall used by the Antiquaires was then given over to textile arts and six other firms were asked to exhibit.

Not surprisingly others in the business began to view the group with suspicion suspecting them



of cornering the market. Textura members however deny any monopoly and claim that their interest

lies in putting textiles apart with other collectibles like fine paintings. Textura is deliberate kept small to allow members to complement each other. Occasionally they buy in partnership, "because some of the best items cost such vast sums of money that it's pragmatic to buy the piece and hold it together." This cooperation helps them to get some of the more prized items and maintain a high level of quality.

Many dealers have been trying to break into the circle but without much success. "They feel there is prestige that goes along with it," said Franes.

There certainly isn't any commercial advantage. For five years now the members of Textura have exhibited at Maastricht. They are very fortunate if they make sufficient sales to cover their costs. The Textura members are expected to make beautiful presentations, which costs a considerable amount of money.

Academic File

Sybil Bernier-Hart is a writer and researcher based in London.

Regional Business Report



Abu Dhabi 'will not negotiate on BCCI cash'

A SENIOR Abu Dhabi official warned creditors of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International that if they rejected a compensation deal now on the table the offer would be withdrawn and not renegotiated.

Ahmed Al Sayegh, a member of the Abu Dhabi government's working group on BCCI, said in London that if creditors rejected the offer of cash from Abu Dhabi they might not see any money until the next century. There would be a mass of lengthy lawsuits.

"There is no intention whatsoever of renegotiating the arrangements," he said. Creditors are being pulled on their views by the liquidators, Touche Ross, on the orders of a Luxembourg judge, who has deferred approval of the compensation plan.

Mr Sayegh attacked the Bank of England, saying its claim that it closed BCCI in July 1991 because massive fraud had just been discovered could not stand up. The Bank knew everything about the fraud by the end of February.

In the first on-the-record briefing in London by a senior Abu Dhabi official, he made clear that massive, actions, for damages against the Bank of England and Price Waterhouse, BCCI's former auditors, were highly likely.

He attacked Price Waterhouse, saying it had a conflict of interest, because it secretly worked for the Bank of England at a time when it was auditor to BCCI, a member of the investigating committee, and an adviser on restructuring. He accused its officials of fleeing Abu Dhabi the day before the closure of BCCI.

Mr Sayegh rejected claims understood to be in the draft report by Lord Justice Bingham, that Abu Dhabi delayed telling the Bank of England of the seriousness of the situation of BCCI though it knew the problems in April 1990.

Swaleh Naqvi, BCCI's former chief, had said \$2 billion was missing but had given only sketchy and inaccurate information. Preoccupation with the invasion of Kuwait, prevented full-scale investigation until the autumn.

Mr Sayegh criticized the British government for allowing lawyers for the Treasury and the Bank of England to edit the Bingham report for publication.

No one party involved should be allowed to edit, the report, he said. Abu Dhabi wanted to see "fair and whole publication."

Asked about claims that the compensation deal allowed Abu Dhabi to walk away from more than \$4 billion of promissory notes in return for a maximum payout of \$2.2 billion to creditors, he said the figures were misleading. The true cost of the package, including claims Abu Dhabi was dropping, was over \$4 billion, while the obligation to repay the notes was "buried by those who closed BCCI."

Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi has laid preliminary fraud charges against 14 former executives of BCCI and intends to hold a formal trial in the emirate.

Former charges have yet to be laid against the former executives and discussions are still being held about three others detained in the emirate.

Mr Sayegh said Abu Dhabi would pursue individuals whom it believed had defrauded the state. He assured depositors that the emirate would honor the compensation agreement it had negotiated with Touche Ross.

Dollar falls near to all time low against D-Mark

THE DOLLAR continued to tumble to only a fraction of a penny above its all-time low against the German Mark. It closed in London at DM1.4455, compared with the nadir of DM1.4430 reached in February 1991.

The dollar's weakness helped to pull sterling to its lowest point against the D-Mark since Britain joined the European Monetary System in October 1990.

The pound's fall to DM2.8070 left it less than three pence above its permitted floor against the D-Mark in the EMS. If it reaches the floor of DM2.7780, the British government will be forced to support it either by heavy intervention on the foreign exchanges, or by raising interest rates.

Dealer sold dollars and pounds after the Bundesbank issued its latest figure for German money supply growth. The broad money M3 measure grew at an annualized rate of 8.6 per cent between the fourth quarter of 1991 and last month, compared with 8.7 per cent in June.

Although the trend is downwards, the Bundesbank's target growth rate of 3.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent for the year as a whole will certainly be missed, giving



A delegate from Pennsylvania in full elephant regalia at the Republican Party Convention in Houston last week, which nominated President George Bush for a second term

the German central bank no reason to relax its tight monetary policy.

Israel and China sign trade accord

ISRAEL AND China initiated a trade agreement that Israeli officials hope will facilitate increased exports of such items as electronic goods and farm equipment.

The agreement follows the establishment of formal relations in January and comes amid increased and diplomatic trade contacts between officials of the two countries.

Mr Zvi Koren, director-general of Israel's industry and trade ministry, said that the protocol would enable Israel to "enter the Chinese market, directly and smoothly, without barriers." Israel's visible exports to China are expected to be worth about \$30 million this year against imports of \$4 million. Israeli companies have also been involved in selling military equipment and know-how to China, but no official figures on these are published.

Much of Israel's trade with China has been routed through third

countries. Lack of direct shipping routes has added to costs of trade. Mr Koren also announced that a "co-ordinating committee" would be established to deal with such issues as investment insurance, double taxation and copyright.

El Al Israel's national carrier, has announced it will begin direct once-weekly flights from Tel Aviv to Beijing next month.

Suez Canal makes record earnings

THE SUEZ Canal earned Egypt a record \$1.85 billion in 1991-92 fiscal year compared with \$1.77 billion the year before, its chief executive said in Cairo. Mr Ezzat Adel chairman of the Suez Canal Authority told the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre that last year's revenue was the highest in the canal's 123-year history. The 195 km canal is one of Egypt's biggest foreign currency earners.

Iran threatens to sue Siemens over nuclear plant

IRAN IS threatening to sue Siemens, the German electrical and electronics group, for refusing to complete a nuclear power plant project.

Mr Mansour Haji-Azim, the vice-president in charge of the power stations of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEO), said last week that Iran would be pursuing its dispute with Siemens in a number of international forums, including in court.

The dispute revolves around the failure by Siemens to complete the Bushehr power plant in southern Iran, begun in 1975 as part of the last Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's nuclear program.

The project, which was planned to include two 13,000MW reactors, was abandoned in 1979 when the plant was about 85 per cent completed. It was later bombed by Iraqi aircraft in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Iran, which is suffering from an acute shortage of power generation, has been pushing Siemens to complete the project. It also wants delivery of components for the plant for which it has already paid.

But Siemens says it is subject to a ban imposed by the German government in June 1990 denying export licenses for components of nuclear power plants.

Despite the threat to sue by the AEO, Iran has signed a letter of agreement with Siemens for a gas-fired power station in the free trade zone area of Qeshm Island in the Gulf.

Bush vs. Saddam: The final act

PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush insists, probably honestly, that he is not seeking a military showdown with President Saddam Hussein or seeking to manipulate the situation in the Gulf for his own domestic political advantage. The political key to the present increase in tension lies far more in the additional damage that could be done to Mr Bush during the next three months by Mr Saddam, rather than the punishment that can be inflicted on the Iraqi leader by US air strikes.

The hollowness of the Gulf war victory, as it has come to be seen in US domestic political terms, was fully brought home to the administration last month when, for nearly three weeks, the Iraqis denied UN weapons inspectors access to the ministry of agriculture, in defiance of UN cease-fire resolutions. Baghdad presented the affair as a great national triumph. President Saddam went for a much-photographed swim in the Tigris, and US officials acknowledged that they had been caught badly off balance.

It was an event that the White House was determined should not be repeated in the run-up to November's presidential election, in which Mr Bush is already trailing Governor Bill Clinton, his Democratic rival. The timing of the weekend's revelations of increased US military preparedness in the Gulf owed more to the fact that the UN weapons inspection team was completing its latest searches in and around Baghdad than to the Republican party national convention which opened in Houston.

As senior party members pointed out, the last thing they wanted was for Saddam Hussein to deflect national attention from the official launch of the Republican campaign and it was certainly not something Mr Bush would deliberately choose to happen. They also doubted, whether there was a great deal of political advantage to be reaped by bombing Baghdad, but there was much to be lost by allowing President Saddam to claim another victory.

Part of this damage limitation exercise appears to have paid off already, with the present visit by weapons inspectors in Iraq apparently concluding without Baghdad challenging the UN's authority. However, US policy is also directed to the overthrow of President Saddam and longer-term planning to achieve that objective continues.

Evidence of this is now emerging from a US-led allied decision to establish an exclusion zone below the 32nd parallel in southern Iraq below which Iraqi aircraft will not be permitted to fly. It is a move that the US has been reluctant to make, despite powerful evidence of repeated violations of UN resolutions by Baghdad.

Western forces stood by when, in the immediate aftermath of the Gulf war, Saddam Hussein stamped out the Shia uprising in the south.

Mounting evidence that the Iraqi regime is now deploying both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft against the Shia may have tipped the US hand. Representatives of exiled Iraqi opposition groups last month called on Mr James Baker, then secretary of state, and last week evidence was produced to the UN Security Council of continuing atrocities in the south.

What seems to have been hold-

ing the administration back is its determination to avoid becoming involved in the political dismemberment of Iraq and its fear that Iraq would be the main beneficiary of any allied intervention on behalf of the southern Shias. Arab leaders in the Gulf are themselves divided over the wisdom of seeking to divide Iraq into three parts with the Kurds in the north the Sunni Muslims in the centre, and the Shias to the south.

Set against that is the conviction among some sections of the

Bush administration that President Saddam Hussein is now closer than ever to being toppled. They point to a serious economic situation with inflation out of control and basic food-stuffs ever scarce. The recent execution of an estimated 40 traders accused of making excessive profits is cited as evidence of the desperate state of the regime. It is argued that a further twist of the screw now by giving protection to the Shias, could push the regime over the edge.

The fall of Saddam Hussein in

the next three months, whoever or what ever replaced him, would be a political bonus for Mr Bush. But if President Saddam is to survive, the administration is determined he should



Saddam Hussein



The no-fly zone in southern Iraq at least be quiescent. ■

Financial Times

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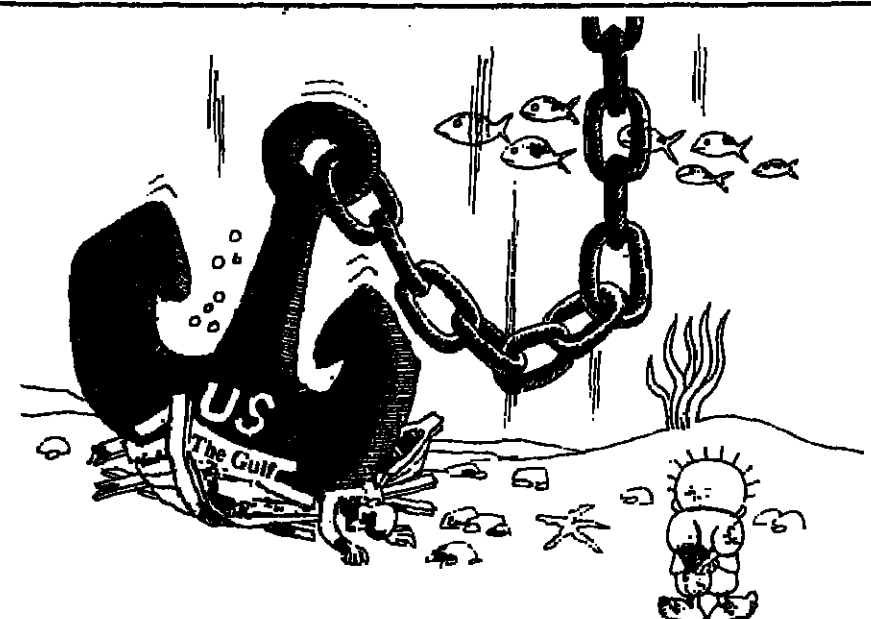
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مكتبة النور



The late Najji Al Ali

Our Say....

What will Saddam do now?

THE CONSPIRACY against Iraq entered what could probably be described as its most brutal phase on Wednesday with President Bush's announcement of an imposition of a no-fly zone in southern Iraq below 32 degrees latitude by the United States, Britain, France and Russia. In the days before the announcement US officials attempted to water down fears that this step effectively meant the carving up of Iraq. They tried to dress up the move by giving it a humanitarian dimension, the protection of Iraq's Shia community. They defended the step saying it was legal under UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf War and they protested accusations that it was meant to give a boost to President Bush in his campaign to win the November presidential elections.

For the Iraqis, and indeed for the Arabs, this quadrilateral aggression on an Arab country can only be interpreted as a blatant attempt to dismember Iraq.

With a "protected" zone for the Kurds in the north and another for the Shia in the south, Iraq has been mutilated and left to die. Whatever logic smart-looking Western diplomats put forward to defend or explain this hideous act, we as Arabs reject out of hand.

No law on earth condones the punitive measures which the West has slapped against Iraq since the outbreak of the Gulf Crisis. This latest move appears to have come at a time when the United States and its allies arrived at the conclusion that their attempts to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein have failed miserably.

What could President Saddam do now? He had resisted previous conspiracies and maintained the unity of his beleaguered nation, albeit at a high price. He has endured years of isolation and sanctions, rebuilt what the Allies destroyed with their long-range missiles and brutal air raids and regained his credibility with the Arab masses. Most of all, his survival has exposed the dubious roles played by the Gulf Arabs and others in cementing the presence and influence of the United States and its allies in Arabia's oil-rich country.

The need to get rid of Saddam at any cost is probably the simplest and most straightforward explanation of this latest move, even if it meant carving up Iraq and breaking the back of this once-thriving nation.

President Saddam has very few options to deal with this latest onslaught. The coming days are extremely sensitive. A man who sees his country disintegrating and his realm reduced by more than two thirds is bound to act in defence, in retaliation or in reaction. His reaction is unpredictable. If he succumbs it would surely spell his end and that of modern-day Iraq. If he personally survives the ordeal, Iraq as we know it won't. The price of his survival is too high. Is that what the Allies are trying to tell the Iraqis? Saddam or Iraq?

On the other hand, President Saddam may choose to call Mr Bush's bluff and fly a plane or two down south and bear the cost. If his planes are shot down, he may opt for Gulf War II at any cost as he personally has nothing to lose. What would the consequences of his challenge be, inside Iraq, in the Arab world and for the West, which is in no mood to fight another war in the Middle East?

The Allies may have miscalculated their move this time. A passing grade is not immediate as we have learned from previous adventures. The loss of Baghdad's authority over the south may encourage Iran to infiltrate that region again and move an inch closer towards the dream of creating an Iraqi Shia republic.

One thing is for certain, Iraq's destabilization will undermine the stability of the whole region. It is ironic that the quadrilateral move took place just when the Arabs and Israelis appeared to be making progress towards peace in the Middle East. ■

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).
Editorial & Advertising: Fax & Telephone 648298, P.O. Box 9313, Amman - Jordan.
Typesetting, layout and processing done exclusively on Apple Macintosh Desk-top publishing system.
Images scanned on Hewlett Packard scanners.

Publisher
&
Editor-in-Chief
Osama El-Sherif

Book Review

When Russia turned red

By Cathy Young

IS IT mere coincidence that while Simon Schama's brilliant narrative history of the French Revolution was called *Citizens*, British journalist Brian Moynahan's account of the Russian Revolution of 1917 is entitled *Comrades*? Though not a professional historian like Schama, Moynahan has written a gripping, insightful book that demystifies the birth of the now defunct Soviet state.

Scanning the period from December 1916 to December 1917, *Comrades* paints a scathing picture of the social, political and moral disarray of late imperial Russia, culminating in the rise of Rasputin and his assassination by a group of self-styled patriots.

While Russia was making tremendous strides in the early years of the 20th century, the combination of wartime hardships, misgovernment and social ferment made the country a giant powderkeg. But if the fall of the Romanovs became at some point inevitable, the Communist takeover was anything but. The masses, even when rebellious, had little appreciation for radical ideas, the peasants were "more interested in manor-burning than in socialism" and the workers simply wanted higher wages, shorter hours and cheaper food.

The Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, were attacking the provisional government that had replaced the monarchy in February 1917 and was carrying out popular reforms, but they enjoyed minimal support. As Lenin spoke to the crowd from a balcony, two soldiers were heard grumbling, "Ought to stick a bayonet into a fellow like that! ... Must be a German." Indeed, the fact that Lenin had received large sums of money from the Germans (who saw subsidizing revolutionaries in Russia as a good way to destabilize an adversary) soon became widely known.

The regime headed by Alexander Kerensky could not effectively resist even the weakest onslaught. Even after the Bolsheviks attempted a coup in July 1917, only half-hearted action was taken. The social democrats in the provisional government felt uneasy about jailing yesterday's fellow revolutionaries. The mercurial Kerensky was racked by doubt and fear of a rightist backlash. At one point, the venerated revolution

ary Yekaterina Breshko-Breshkovskaya dramatically knelt before the premier begging him to arrest the Bolshevik leaders, who were just then holding a nominally secret congress. "Kerensky sprang to his feet and said he should telephone instructions to Nikolai Avksentiev, the interior minister. Avksentiev was not in his office. Kerensky put the phone down and did not ring back." (Who knows, if the answering machine had existed then, Russian democracy might have been saved.)

This is, of course, a familiar story and Moynahan's historical analysis is hardly groundbreaking. The main appeal of *Comrades* lies in its narrative and descriptive power. Based largely on the memoirs, diaries and letters of contemporaries as varied as Tsarina Alexandra, Lenin and the poet Alexander Blok, the book captures the atmosphere of the mostly worst of times with subtlety and force, and a sharp flair for the grotesque.

What also makes *Comrades* remarkably readable is Moynahan's skill at sketching vivid portraits of major and minor historical figures; the weak-willed Nicholas II, a caring husband and father who "treated subordinates with a gracious and somewhat shy kindness," but woefully lacked understanding of his country's situation and obstinately clung to autocracy; Lenin, the emotional cripple whose hatred for political enemies was visceral but also "abstract and cold like the whole of (his) being"; Maria Bockrayova, a former serf's daughter who escaped a life of sexual exploitation by joining the army in 1914 and later organized women's battalions to defend the provisional government.

Parallels between 1917 and 1991 may be too facile — the two revolutions were driven by very different ideals and took place in very different societies — but *Comrades* can be seen as a reminder of the fragility of young democracies. Moynahan himself refrains from drawing explicit parallels. But the photographs of boys standing over the broken-off head of a tsar's fallen state is too eerily reminiscent of what we recently saw on our television screens. ■

COMRADES: 1917 — RUSSIA IN REVOLUTION. By Brian Moynahan. Little, Brown. 374 pp. \$24.95

NRA encourages private investments

Continued from page 3

Q: Private companies have been extracting limestone, sand, marble and similar minerals used in construction and other local industries. Could you comment on market growth possibilities?

A: The private sector is active in extracting and marketing construction materials like building stones, marble and granite to provide the needs of the market and for export purposes especially to neighboring countries. In addition, the private sector is mining silica sand, gypsum, clay, feldspar, pure limestone, basalt, dolomite, volcanic tuff and zeolites mainly for the local industries though a small portion of these commodities is exported.

It can be noticed that there is slight growth in the production of the above commodities recently. NRA always encourages the private sector to invest in order to expand the production of the available mineral raw materials, to utilize the commodities studied by NRA and not exploited yet, or to create new mining industries. We hope that the private sector will

take a bigger role by carrying out industrial tests, pilot plant studies, feasibility studies and market studies to achieve significant growth in mining in Jordan.

Q: What about the EC Economic Geology Project being conducted in Jordan at present?

A: NRA signed an agreement with the EC recently. According to this the EC granted NRA a total of ECU 1 million to implement the Economic Geology project. This project includes studies of ornamental stones in Jordan, updating the feasibility study of the copper project, a geochemical survey in south Jordan, purchasing field and lab equipment and training NRA staff in Europe.

NRA in cooperation with UNDP completed a model mineral agreement and is working on modification of the mining law and regulations to promote and encourage local and foreign investors to invest and develop mineral resources in Jordan. ■

Building western confidence in Islam

By Shirley Rizvi

NOTHING PERPETUATES hatred and mistrust longer than a lack of information. When this truism is projected on to religions, people are seen caught in a vortex of blind hatred and confusion which spirals into war, brutality and social retribution.

Three of the world's major religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — hold common beliefs entrenched in the Abrahamic Tradition. Perhaps no other denominations share as much and have a greater basis for compatibility and friendship. Instead the followers of the Prophets Moses, Jesus and Muhammad hold a deep-rooted suspicion of each other and give vent to their feelings in violent eruptions which have scarred human history from the Crusades to the Third Reich to the Middle East and now eastern Europe. All these outbreaks can be traced to a fundamental inability of the followers of these great religions to comprehend and accommodate each other's beliefs.

Karen Armstrong, a former Roman Catholic nun, has set out to forge a link of understanding in her book, *Muhammad: A Western Attempt To Understand Islam*, published by Victor Gollancz. As the title suggests the book is written for the Western reader and deals mainly with the misconceptions that have contributed to the alienation of Islam in the West.

Ms Armstrong points out that the fundamental problem is of acceptance. While Muslims recognize the Peoples of the Book, even allowing marriage with Jews and Christians, she asserts that most Westerners, and the West at large, have never accepted Islam. Rather, she maintains, most Westerners view Islam as a threat.



A Muslim woman participating in a conference in France

In recent years these fears have been further compounded by the resurgence of a religious fervor that has encompassed societies of all faiths — and yet been most talked about in its Islamic manifestation. Muslims have been accused of rejecting Western models altogether and seeking to supplant them with Islamic ideal — in other words subverting both Western institutions and thought. Not surprisingly Muslims, especially those in the West, are the subject of increasing hostility.

"If Muslims need to understand our Western traditions and institutions more thoroughly today," says Ms Armstrong, "we in the West need to divest ourselves of some of our old prejudice."

"Perhaps one place to start is with the

figure of Muhammad: a complex, passionate man who sometimes did things that it is difficult for us to accept, but who had genius of a profound order and founded a religion and a cultural tradition that was not based on the sword — despite the Western myth — and whose name "Islam" signifies peace and reconciliation."

Armstrong attempts to explain the fears and questions most often raised about Islam by examining events from the life of the Prophet Muhammad and their impact on his followers.

She points out, perhaps for the umpteenth time but still usefully for her Western readers, that Islam is more than a religion — it is a way of life the pattern for which was set out by its prophet. To under-

stand why Muslims act in a certain way it is essential to know about parallel examples in the life of the man they follow.

Muslims regard political activity as a religious duty, she says, for the same reasons as Christians choose a path of suffering to achieve piety.

"Each religion," Armstrong says, "has its own particular genius, a special insight that characterizes its quest for an ultimate meaning and value. Christianity is supremely a religion of suffering and adversity and, in the West at least it has always been at its best during periods of distress. The centuries of persecution in the early days of the Church reinforced the image of Christ crucified and made a profound impression on the Christian spirit. From the start, therefore, Christians felt that they had to reject 'the world,' so defiance or dissociation from the political establishment naturally became virtue in the age of the martyrs."

The example set out for Islam, however, is totally different. The religion was born in a period of great unrest, the bloodbath of seventh-century Arabia had eroded old values and there was nothing to replace it. Religion was the ultimate solution — one which was effective in bringing about unity among the warring tribes.

In conditions that prevailed, there was little choice but to go to battle. This fact has made many people in the West see the Prophet Muhammad as a sword-wielding leader who imposed his teachings on simple tribesmen of the desert. This view has also contributed towards creating a fear of all who follow him, leaving etched in the Western psyche the image of Muslims as perpetrators of violence.

Armstrong's explanations of *hijra* (the Prophet Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina — an event Muslims see as the dawn of their religion) and the *Jihad* or holy war which followed show them as essential decisions brought about by the situation at the time.

There are several words in Arabic for war but Muhammad used *Jihad* because of its rich and wide-ranging connotation. The word can be interpreted as a human effort to achieve noble goals.

It is not one of the Five Pillars of Islam nor a central prop of the religion, despite common Western views. "But," she points out, "it was and remains a duty for Muslims to commit themselves to a struggle on all fronts — moral, spiritual and political — to create a just and decent society."

Current popular Western thought, however, regards *Jihad* as one of the most dreaded words, which Armstrong counters by quoting a *hadith* or a saying of the prophet soon after his return from battle: "We return from the little *Jihad* to the greater *Jihad*, the more difficult and crucial effort to conquer the forces of evil in oneself and in one's own society in all details of daily life."

Acceptance is the key word behind Karen Armstrong's work. She begins with the premise that Muhammad's religious experience is a reality and continues to explain what most people in the West find incomprehensible — such as why Muslim men are allowed to marry more than one wife or the seemingly blind pursuit of their goals by the so-called Muslim fundamentalists.

In readable secular terms, she tackles issues of dogma in relation to the life of the Prophet Muhammad and traces the origins of the Western hatred for Islam and the misconceptions that gave rise to it.

Come what may the West, she says, has to accept that it is deeply connected with the Muslim world — the Gulf War has more than proved that. But centuries of rejection have created a chasm between the two worlds of Islam and Judaism/Christianity which only a "more tolerant, compassionate and courageous tradition" can help bridge. ■

Academic File

Shirley Rizvi is the executive editor of Academic File.

Grand Ayatollah: Abolqassem Al Khoy

By Chibli Mallat

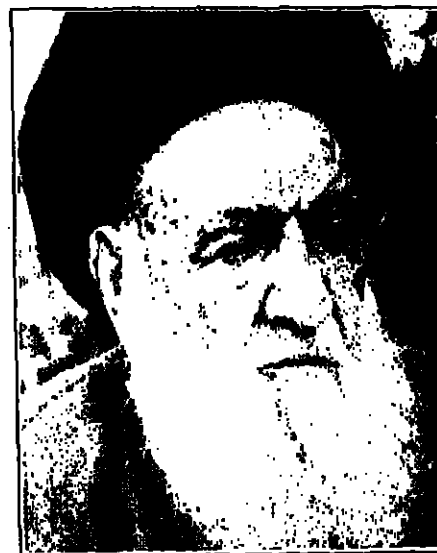
THE SPAN of Abolqassem Al Khoy's life covers the century, and his disappearance comes at a time when the Shia world is at one of the most significant crossroads of its destiny. Khoy's career epitomizes, in many ways, the difficult choice which history has forced upon the second largest community of Muslims. His legacy, besides graduating hundreds of Shia scholars, are more than 40 books on law.

Khoy was born in 1899, in the heyday of European colonial expansion in the Middle East. Brought up in Iran, he followed the scholarship course of the most gifted Shia youngsters, and came, as a *mujtahid* (a legal scholar) to live and to teach law in the colleges of southern Iraq, where he stayed until death. A career as *mujtahid* meant the choice of a traditional legal scholarship, a strictly religious discipline as opposed to the more modern law schools from which lay lawyers and judges graduate.

This meant also enrolling in a structure at the top of which sit the Ayatollahs ("signs of God," also known as *marja*, plural of *marja*, "reference"), some of whom have been, since 1979, the masters of Iran. Khoy, much as he would have personally liked to remain outside the turbulent fray of Middle East politics, could not ignore these mighty events. As the most "quietist" religious jurist in an age of turbulence, his very silence was a powerful message.

Khoy was not always so silent, and records show that, as an Iranian-born, he even preceded his contemporary colleague, Ruhollah Khomeini, in harsh and open criticism of the Shah, whom he strongly admonished in the early 1960s.

But then Khoy's and Khomeini's paths diverged. In the 20 years that separate these positions from the accession of Khomeini to power in Iran, Khomeini and Khoy came to represent the exact opposite poles in their views of the role of the religious jurist in the state. Khomeini's greatest constitutional legacy is known as *Velayat-e-faqih*, the rule of the jurist. In its broad terms, it meant that the political leadership of the state was to be vested with the *faqh*



(or *mujtahid*) jurist. It is said that the theory, which first appeared in lectures in the city of Najaf in early 1970, was proffered to counter earlier lectures by Khoy advocating the exact opposite: that the Shia jurists should not get entangled with affairs where they have to compromise with political powers that be and respond to challenges they are unable to control.

Leadership was important for Khoy but it was not political. And when Khomeini left Najaf to assume power in Iran in 1979, the traditional telegram of congratulations of Khoy became famous for what it did not explicitly say: Khomeini was addressed as *Hujjat al-Islam*, a degree beneath the top degree, by Ayat Allah Al Khoy. The non-political *mujtahid* of Najaf would not recognize that the scholarship of his counterpart in Tehran was equal to his.

In Najaf, a city where repression was rife, the political quietism of Khoy continued. It was paralleled by the building-up, in the name of Khoy, of a huge institution which owns schools, buildings, and "charities" in a world stretching from New York and London to India. The Khoy Foundation drives its wealth from the financial support to the *marja* by his several million-strong following in the world.

From the religious point of view, the imitators of Khoy turned to him for guidance in the performance of their duties. But they also contributed taxes which Khoy used to perform the spiritual and social duties he considered best for the community and the advancement of Shia scholarship and welfare across the world. Khoy was the most famous teacher of Najaf, and he formed hundreds of *mujtahids* who spread over the world and have carried on the torch of Shia learning.

Not long ago Khoy could be heard on the telephone saying in his slow-paced and elegant literary Arabic to his relatives abroad: "You know that I do not get involved in politics." That was during the heyday of the Iran-Iraq war. Khoy's position was one of wisdom.

Neither the zealous revolutionaries in Iran nor their Baathist enemies in Baghdad could force from him a statement in support of their stand in the conflict. Khoy remained aloof and retained a respect which allowed his following in the Shia world to be less prone to cyclical political ebbs and flows. Until the Gulf War, Khoy weathered the storm successfully.

The tragedy then caught up with him. The exact developments in the revolt of the south of Iraq in March 1991 are still uncertain, but Khoy nominated a committee of a *mujtahids* to "protect the public interest" when Najaf was freed, briefly for two weeks, from Baath rule.

Contact was even made with the US and French headquarters through Khoy's son Majid, but the allies stood by watching the forces of Saddam Hussein regaining control of the city. As the revolt was subdued, a meeting between Khoy and Saddam Hussein was shown on television in Iraq. Since then, the ailing *mujtahid* is believed to have remained under house arrest. He dies in Kufa on 8 August.

In the tragic circumstances of Iraq, even the most quietest *mujtahid* could not avoid being forced into the public eye. His humilitation of the past 18 months show well how violence catches up: in the Middle East, with people who have no inclination to politics. ■

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Session de la CESAO

Le rêve de la coopération régionale

Il pourrait devenir réalité, selon les responsables de la Commission régionale des Nations Unies, qui réunissent bientôt leurs treize Etats-membres. Mot d'ordre: repartir sur de bonnes bases

"C'EST L'INTERET national de chaque Etat-membre d'appuyer l'action des Nations Unies et de la CESAO" affirme Nejib Frijl, porte-parole de la Commission Economique et Sociale pour l'Asie Occidentale. Cette année régionale de l'ONU va réussir l'exploit de réunir lors de sa 16ème session à Amman (30 août-3 septembre), treize pays qui ne sont pas sur la même longueur d'onde politique. L'avantage de notre action, c'est qu'elle observe une neutralité totale" ajoute le porte-parole de la CESAO. Ainsi, les pays du Golfe se retrouveront à la même table que leur turbulent voisin irakien. L'idée est simple: il s'agit de relancer la coopération régionale, de repartir sur de bonnes bases après une décennie ratée. Après que l'économie régionale ait subi les conséquences de la guerre du Golfe et des vagues de rapatriés.

Retour à la normale

L'impulsion vient de Tayseer Abdel Jaber, nouveau Secrétaire Exécutif de l'Organisation régionale, qui a réussi le redéploiement de la CESAO à Amman, à remettre la machine en route en vue de convoquer cette session ministérielle exceptionnelle. Pendant la période de deux ans 1990-1991, la Commission des Nations Unies a dû suspendre temporairement ses activités. Mais la CESAO a pu assurer 44% de son programme d'action sur cette période.

"En dix mois, nous avons repris notre vitesse de croisière, nous fournissons maintenant nos services d'expertises, de consultations et d'exécution de programmes économiques d'une manière tout à fait normale" déclare Nejib Frijl. Et d'ajouter: "La convocation de cette session couronne un certain nombre d'activités régionales que nous avons entreprises". Principaux domaines d'action: l'absorption des réfugiés du Golfe en mettant l'accent sur leur possible réinsertion



Tayseer Abdel Jaber, l'artisan de cette 16ème session

tion dans le secteur industriel; l'environnement avec notamment la participation du Secrétaire Exécutif au récent Sommet de la Terre à Rio; l'assistance aux Palestiniens des Territoires occupés en réalisant des études et en prodiguant des conseils... Par ailleurs, ces services techniques sont accordés à tous les Etats-membres,

pas se contenter de passer en revue les actions passées. Ils vont aussi se projeter dans l'avenir en discutant du plan biennal 1992-93 et du plan à moyen terme pour la période 1992-1997. Le mot d'ordre est le renforcement de la coopération régionale et la reconstruction. "Celle-ci visera essentiellement les infrastructures, af-

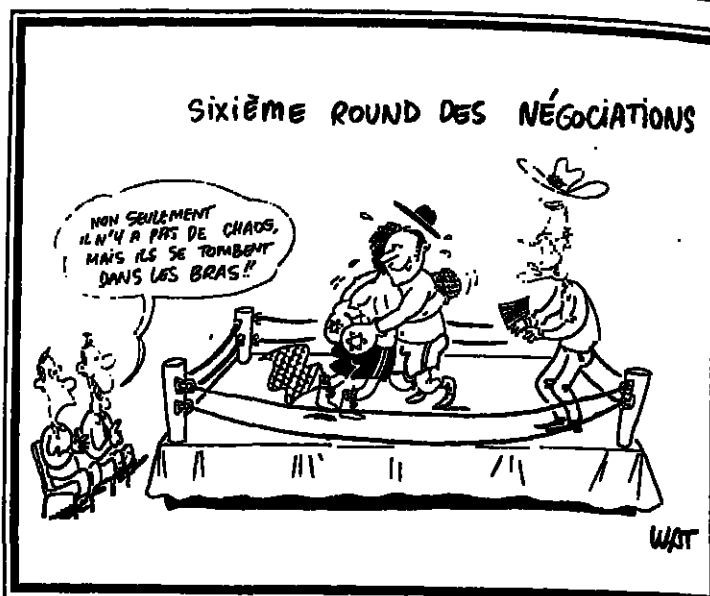
Le mot d'ordre est le renforcement de la coopération régionale et la reconstruction

à l'exception de l'Irak, dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de l'énergie, de l'environnement, du développement industriel...

Mais lors de cette session, les treize ministres du Plan ne vont

développement des Territoires occupés avec des actions qui couvrent les secteurs de l'agriculture, de la formation et du développement social. Elles sont menées conjointement avec d'autres organisations spécialisées, telles que le PNUD (Programme de développement des Nations Unies). "Nous travaillons dans les T.O en attendant la forme institutionnelle prochaine..." dit Nejib Frijl. Avant de faire une mise au point: "Nous avons remarqué une volonté manifeste de la part des Etats arabes de voir les Nations Unies participer aux négociations. Nous avons accueilli favorablement la dernière rencontre entre Dr Boutros Ghali, Secrétaire général de l'ONU et Yitzhak Rabin, le Premier ministre israélien. Mais notre participation aux pourparlers dépendra de la décision du Secrétaire Général".

Francis Mazoyer



Télex... Jordanie

HUSSEIN - "Le roi Hussein récupère de façon satisfaisante après son opération à la clinique Mayo, Rochester, Minnesota. Il doit quitter l'hôpital dans quelques jours" a affirmé mardi le Chef du protocole, Mohammad Al Adwan. A propos de la découverte de cellules cancéreuses dans les tissus opérés, M. Al Adwan a déclaré: "Je crois que les docteurs ont dit oui, mais à un état d'avancement très faible. Cela a été contenu et ne s'est pas propagé ailleurs".

MANIF - "Nous reconnaissons qu'il y a des défauts, mais il ne s'agit pas dans la nouvelle loi sur la presse et les publications" a répondu le Président de l'Association Jordanienne de presse (JPA) aux 40 journalistes venus manifester dimanche devant le Parlement. "Ces défauts sont dans les règles de l'Association et nous allons changer cela très vite" a-t-il ajouté. Les contestataires veulent briser le monopole de la JPA qui a toujours le pouvoir de définir qui peut être ou non être considéré comme journaliste.

RECONNUS? - Les Présidents des deux Chambres du Parlement ont au secours des journalistes non-reconnus. Ahmad Lawzi (Chambre haute) et Abdul Latif Arabiyat (Chambre basse) entendent renverser le mouvement qui fait dépendre la reconnaissance du journaliste sur son appartenance à la JPA. "Si vous pouvez convaincre suffisamment de députés du besoin d'agir ainsi, ils peuvent éventuellement dans la région passer obligatoirement et préalablement par un accord avec les Palestiniens".

OMS - La Jordanie va prendre part aux meetings du Comité Régional Méditerranéen de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS) qui doit commencer le 13 octobre à Alexandrie en Egypte. Le Comité, qui va discuter des politiques de Santé dans les pays méditerranéens, va se pencher sur le cas des Palestiniens dans les Territoires occupés.

Regards de Jordanie

Le round du changement

La nouvelle équipe dirigeante israélienne va-t-elle entraîner les négociateurs arabes dans son nouveau souffle? Quels sont les enjeux de cette sixième édition des pourparlers bilatéraux? Les réponses de Samir Khader, journaliste jordanien

ILS SONT donc tous là. Arabes et Israéliens renouent le contact, toujours à Washington. Depuis ce beau matin d'automne, le 30 octobre 1991, les représentants jordaniens, palestiniens, syriens et libanais ont rencontré à cinq reprises leurs homologues israéliens. Cinq sessions pour un dialogue de sourds hautement médiatisé. Cette fois-ci, ce sera différent. Non pas parce que l'une ou l'autre des parties prenantes a décidé de changer d'avis ou de renoncer à une quelconque exigence. Mais parce que tout simplement, l'une des composantes essentielles de ce processus, à savoir Israël, affiche désormais clairement sa disposition de jouer le jeu des négociations.

Refaire Camp David

Ce revirement, si l'on peut le qualifier ainsi, est dû principalement au nouvel homme fort d'Israël: le travailliste Yitzhak Rabin, tombé du Likoud, parti qui a dirigé Israël pendant quinze années. Un long règne qui avait débuté par un acquis de taille: la signature du premier traité de paix entre Israël et un pays arabe. C'était alors l'époque de la grande euphorie de Camp David. Le Likoud réussissait donc en quelques années là où les travaillistes avaient lamentablement échoué pendant trente ans.

Yitzhak Rabin, le faucon, la main de fer gantée de velours, voudrait en faire autant... mais à sa façon. Ardent défenseur du traité de paix avec l'Egypte, il sait néanmoins que le chemin d'une véritable paix reste long et jalonné de pavés durs. Le problème du Proche-Orient étant, avant tout, un problème palestinien, Yitzhak Rabin annonce la couleur: tout éventuel règlement dans la région passera obligatoirement et préalablement par un accord avec les Palestiniens.

Pour ce faire, il faudrait tout de même avoir quelque chose à proposer. Son prédécesseur a commis l'erreur de vouloir obtenir la paix et la reconnaissance des Arabes sans rien donner en échange. Yitzhak Rabin est plus pragmatique. Il se déclare prêt à faire des concessions.

De plus, le nouveau maître d'Israël veut dépasser le stade des questions de procédure. On a perdu assez de temps précieuses dans les négociations de couloir pour savoir qui, quand, comment, où et quel négociateur, M. Rabin annonce qu'il est prêt à entrer dans le vif du sujet.

On prend les mêmes...

C'est donc à Washington, et non pas à Rome, que ce sixième round de pourparlers s'ouvrira. Il y a peut-être là des considérations de politique intérieure chez le grand patron du processus de paix. Certes, James Baker n'est



Abdel Salam El-Majall, négociateur jordanien sur la défensive

plus le grand patron du Département d'Etat. Mais son ombre pèse lourd sur cette sixième session qui durera, dit-on, près d'un mois. Quant aux diverses délégations sur place, on prend les mêmes et on recommence. Mais cette fois-ci sérieusement. Une seule délégation a changé de tête: celle d'Israël qui négocie avec les Syriens. L'ancien, Yossi Ben Aharon, éminence grise d'Yitzhak Shamir, a fait de son mieux par le passé pour bloquer tout éventuel progrès avec son interlocuteur syrien Monafak Al-Afall. Quant aux deux autres chefs de délégation israéliens, ils gardent leurs places.

Les délégués jordaniens et palestiniens, notamment, attendent Eliakim Rubinstein au tournant. Celui-ci, après avoir fidèlement appliqué les consignes d'Yitzhak Shamir, l'ancien Premier ministre israélien, devra à présent traduire dans les faits les orientations annoncées par son successeur. Après avoir, pendant cinq sessions de pourparlers, joué à fond le jeu de l'obstruction, son gouvernement lui demande à présent de faire preuve de plus de sérieux.

Son attitude lors de la présente session de négociations témoignera de l'ampleur du changement du côté israélien, et dévoilera, par conséquent, les véritables intentions d'Yitzhak Rabin. Ce dernier ne cache d'ailleurs pas sa volonté de parvenir, dans un délai de neuf à douze mois, à un accord avec les Palestiniens sur la mise en place d'un régime transitoire d'autonomie restrictive dans les Territoires arabes occupés.

Eliakim Rubinstein apporte précieusement dans son attaché-case tout un plan qui sera proposé aux Palestiniens lors des négociations de Washington. Ce plan prévoit la tenue en avril d'élections en Cisjordanie et dans

la Bande de Gaza pour choisir un "Conseil d'Administration" de l'autonomie. Des comités conjoints seront créés pour étudier les domaines qui passeront sous l'autorité de ce "Conseil élu", comme par exemple la police, la santé, les impôts et l'éducation. Aucune négociation n'aura lieu, selon les propositions israéliennes, sur les questions touchant à la défense, la sécurité, les frontières, les affaires étrangères, l'eau, la terre et les colonies de peuplement. Israël considère ces secteurs comme des domaines réservés. Ces propositions semblent, pour le moment, inacceptables pour les Palestiniens, ou du moins en deçà de leurs aspirations. Comme le laissait entendre récemment la porte-parole de la délégation palestinienne, Hanane Ashrawi, "l'autorité nationale palestinienne élue devrait avoir des pouvoirs législatifs, exécutifs et judiciaires". Un compromis entre ces deux volontés n'est cependant pas à exclure, à condition toutefois que l'une et l'autre des parties prenantes fassent preuve de flexibilité.

Côté jordanien, le chef de la délégation d'Amman, Abdel Salam Al-Majall, estime qu'il n'existe encore aucun indice sur l'acceptation par Israël d'appliquer les résolutions 242 et 338 de l'ONU. Ces deux résolutions, qui constituent les termes de référence du processus engagé à Madrid, signifient, ni plus ni moins un échange de la terre contre la paix. "Israël se doit de faire preuve de plus de sérieux lors de cette session dans son acceptation d'appliquer les principes de base sur lesquels a été lancé le processus de paix", a déclaré Abdel Salam Al-Majall avant de s'envoler pour Washington. La prudence dont fait preuve Amman contraste avec la volonté affichée par Israël de donner un

nouveau souffle à ces négociations.

Et les Américains? Leur rôle demeure primordial. L'initiateur du processus, celui qui tient toutes les ficelles, a désormais d'autres objectifs. Par exemple celui de faire réélire son ami et complice George Bush pour un second mandat à la Maison Blanche. Mais on aurait tort de croire que le processus de paix au Proche-Orient ne le préoccupe plus. Loin s'en faut, James Baker a beau avoir quitté le Département d'Etat, il continue de peser de tout son poids dans la balance. Tout éventuel progrès dans les négociations arabo-israéliennes ne peut que se répercuter favorablement sur le candidat dont il dirige désormais la campagne électorale. N'est-ce pas lui qui a convaincu les divers protagonistes de laisser tomber Rome pour revenir à Washington pour suivre leurs pourparlers?

Que peut-on finalement attendre de ce nouveau round à Washington? Tout d'abord, la fin de l'état de léthargie qui affecte tout le processus depuis son lancement il y a dix mois à Madrid. Ensuite, un accord sur la finalité de ce processus: on ne négocie tout de même pas pour le plaisir de négocier. Enfin, tenter de mesurer l'ampleur du changement du côté israélien, notamment après l'arrivée au pouvoir de la nouvelle équipe. Si nos négociateurs nous annoncent avoir décelé ce changement, alors tous les espoirs seront permis.

Sinon, les générations futures continueront à vivre dans la tourmente. L'instabilité de notre région sera synonyme d'instabilité du monde entier, et une preuve supplémentaire de l'échec du "Nouvel Ordre Mondial" dont on nous vanne les mérites.

S.K.

L'EDITO

Amir Shalita

La reprise

LA REPRISE des négociations bilatérales de paix à Washington s'est déroulée dans une ambiance on ne peut plus rassurante. Du côté palestinien, syrien et israélien, le ton est presque identique. Encourageant, satisfaisant, nouveau, sérieux... Ce sont les termes qui reviennent dans les premières déclarations de l'une ou l'autre des délégations.

Cette dynamique qui marque l'actuel round des pourparlers israélo-arabes est renforcée par une série de promesses de suspension des mesures répressives qui frappent les Palestiniens des T.O. Ces derniers se féliciteraient peut-être d'échapper à la déportation qui rappelle aux juifs les mauvais souvenirs du calvaire nazi.

Les déclarations de Shimon Peres sur un éventuel échange des hauteurs du Golan contre un traité de paix avec la Syrie ont été délibérément synchronisées avec le premier round des négociations syro-israéliennes. C'est peut-être l'événement majeur de ces premiers jours, vu la réaction positive de la Syrie. Malgré l'offre de la restitution partielle du Golan. Moralité: Ça négocie. Et ça ne marche pas plus.

Les Palestiniens jubilent devant la décision américaine de les traiter avec les égards officiels dus à une délégation. Ils récoltent l'une après l'autre, les modestes concessions israéliennes. Mais à la Knesset, plus d'une voix s'élève pour réaffirmer que Jérusalem ne fera jamais l'objet de négociations.

C'est aux yeux de certains de la surenchère entre différents groupes politiques. Il est d'autant plus impératif que la question de Jérusalem (T.O. depuis 1967), en l'occurrence sa partie Est, soit traitée comme tout le reste des Territoires concernés par les résolutions 242 et 338 des Nations Unies.

Si de part et d'autre on convient que l'ambiance des négociations est positive, l'OLP n'hésite pas à monnayer cet acquis.

Nabil Shaath, premier conseiller de Yasser Arafat a marqué le coup en rencontrant deux responsables israéliens en Europe. Profitant ainsi de la levée imminente de l'interdiction des rencontres entre responsables israéliens et membres de l'OLP, Nabil Shaath prépare-t-il un rôle plus actif et direct de la Centrale Palestinienne dans le processus de paix? On est en droit de se poser la question.

The Star



Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Jordan participates in drama conference

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

LAST MONTH Jordan participated in the First Drama in Education Conference which was held in Porto, Portugal from 20 to 25 July.

The conference was organized by the International Drama in Education Association. Included in the 400 delegates from around the world, was Jordan's representative Edwina Issa, who submitted a report that was included in the conference's final document. Ms Issa is the chairwoman of the Jordanian National Group for Drama in Education, Children Theatre and Puppetry, and presented a working paper on drama development in the Middle East, with special reference to drama in education in Jordan.

She put forward that the conference should help third world countries who have just started to implement drama in their school curriculum. The pioneering groups need full support and encouragement while on their way to achieve the status of the national associations, and this is where the conference can help, she concluded.

Edwina Issa came to Jordan in 1983, when she began teaching, the idea of drama was completely

new. Gradually many Jordanians came back from their studies abroad, and it gave incentives for The First Jordanian Conference in Drama in Education, which was established 1989, and was organized under the patronage of Her Highness, Princess Basma through the Queen Alia Jordanian Social Welfare Fund.

"After the conference, Margo Malajalian, Samar Doodeen and I were inspired to pull our resources together to form a panel of experts with a charter on promoting drama in education in the Kingdom," recalled Edwina, who is currently acting as the head of performing arts, the theatre manager in the New English School and the head of drama department in the International Community School. She also pointed out that their group has grown, to 90 members.

Besides organizing workshops, lectures, puppetry courses, documentary film projections on drama in education application, they also opened a library of translated books. According to her words, they have been always catering for being particular in taking values from Jordanian culture, and that they were highly selective toward adopting western experiences.

"Drama has a lot to offer to

children," she said, "It makes them fluent, articulate, self-confident, enthusiastic and right and left hand thinkers, it helps them make their own values and choices, and it also makes them educated participants and spectators in dramatic arts."

She said, "I am happy to give this society all my knowledge and potential to assist in spreading awareness and recognition of drama, its socially good and academically respectable."

Her special efforts at the conference, which gave Jordan a place in the international arena in drama in education, are one of the expressions of her dedication to the role she is playing in the Jordanian society.

Jordan is invited for the next conference in Australia, 1995.

Under the patronage of her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the National Gallery in Jabal Lubdoh will hold an art exhibition of the work of three artists: Naz Ikramullah (Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath's sister), Dodi Tabaa and Nabila Hilmil. The exhibition will be opened on Monday 31 August at 6 pm. A press conference will be held on Sunday 30 August for Journalists.



Inter-Continental Hotel holds car park international food festival

Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan held an International Car Park Food Festival for the whole family on Sunday 16 August 1992, at 8:00 pm at the swimming pool area.

This event featured mouth watering delights from Spain, India, France, Germany and Lebanon. The display of the food stations were arranged throughout the swimming pool area of the hotel, and fun games for everyone were conducted during the festival with prizes for winners. With live band entertainment the event was festive and joyful for youngsters and adults.

The idea of the Car Park Food Festival is new to Jordan and the Inter-Continental, and the concept of such an event is to bring different cultures and diverse tastes together from around the world.



Congratulations to Mohamed Ibrahim Assaf and to Rhonda Ibrahim Nabulsi who were married on 18 August in Amman. Many friends and relatives enjoyed the reception and there were also a few family reunions.

Mabruk to Mahmoud Faris, The Star's administrative assistant, and his beautiful bride who were married on the 14 August at Sahab with many friends and family present.

On 16 August, 310 orphan children from all over Jordan completed a three week summer camp. The activities were co-sponsored by UNRWA and the YMCA. This camp was held, as each year, at the Amman Training Center. Activities included day trips to cultural and historical sites throughout the kingdom. At the closing ceremony on 14 August, the children, ranging in age from seven to 14, demonstrated their newly acquired skills in computing, scouting, science, arts and crafts, music and folk dancing.

All the family, relatives and friends congratulate their beloved son Mr. Suhail Shanti, who recently came back from the US, after a successful laser surgery at George Washington University Hospital. A reception will be held on this occasion, Monday 31. August 92 at 8:00 pm.

On 12 August, 180 children from Baga's camp and the Nuzha area held a farewell party to seven UNIPAL volunteers who devoted a month to teaching them English. The pupils sang, danced and performed plays in English to show their appreciation and the improvement in their language skills following one month of intensive English. Teachers of English also participated in the one month training and were able to upgrade their "teaching performance and their capabilities for the regular school year", according to the coordinator of the program in North Amman, Nadeeda Al-Til.

Adel Matni wins the Rumman climb race

Many spectators gathered Friday on the Rumman hill overlooking the King Talal dam lake to watch the Royal Automobile Club's Rumman Hill Climb race. Thirty-five drivers attempted to break the 1989 record set by His Majesty King Hussein in a Mercedes-Benz 190. But competitors did not even come close to threatening the King's record time of 2:02.42 minutes.

Only few specially equipped cars participated in the 3 km climb. The winner, Lebanese Adel Matni, drew applause when he won the race driving his Lancia Delta clocking 2:15.916 minutes and an average speed of 108 km/h. He was followed by Sinan Saad, Issa Halabi and Khaled Nagehawi. Randa Nabulsi, the only female driver participating, achieved an encouraging 12th place, aging 12th place with her Toyota Corolla GT, with a total time of 2:36.592 minutes and average speed of 94 km/h. The Silk Cut sponsored race was excellently organized and parking space was made available for the public who came in scores encouraged by the nice weather.



Programs on
Jordan
Television
from

29 August -
4 September

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes.
9:00 — Encounter with Dr Jamil Jreisat president of AAUG.
9:30 — Varieties

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings.
9:10 — Documentary: A Thousand Cranes. "Seven years after Hiroshima was struck by a nuclear bomb, cancer symptoms appeared on those who survived the calamity."
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Midnight Caller.

MONDAY

8:30 — Close to Home.
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs. Starring: Alison Steadman and Jim Broadbent
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Strauss family.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:00 — Mr. Bean.
9:30 — Tex.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film. "Scarlet Pimpernel" Starring Leslie Howard and Morie Osborn. An English nobleman's role during and after the French revolution.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell.
9:00 — Perspective.
9:30 — Man of the People.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The Good Guys (Episode 1).

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons.
9:00 — W.I.O.U. "Wife abuse." Channel 12 news crew investigate the story of a police deputy of chief who beat up his wife.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — movie Of The Week. "Winter Kill" Starring Andy Griffith. A murder chooses

FRIDAY

8:30 — Close to Home.
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs. Starring: Alison Steadman and Jim Broadbent
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Strauss family.

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes.
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8:30 — Wings.
9:10 — Documentary: A Thousand Cranes. "Seven years after Hiroshima was struck by a nuclear bomb, cancer symptoms appeared on those who survived the calamity."
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Midnight Caller.



The Powers That Be, Friday at 11:10

his victims from the diary of a young woman.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Golden Girls.
9:10 — The Gravy Train (Episode 1). A former UN employee arrives in Brussels to start working there not knowing that some adventures await him.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — EL CID.
11:10 — The Powers That Be.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Des Petites Histoires Presque Vraies.
6:10 — Les aventures du Bosco.
6:30 — Opération Mozart. A new series.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fenêtre Sur. A local program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.
5:50 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
6:10 — La Chance aux Chansons. A variety program
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — E=M6. A scientific magazine

LUNDI

6:00 — Au Clair de la Lune.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous. A variety and cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique: A scientific Magazine

JEUDI

6:00 — Circus Partenaire. A documentary about the circus.
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

VENREDI

5:30 — Documentary: Géoscope.
5:50 — Les Clés de Fort Boyard. A Game show
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program.

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): A person you're attracted to may disappear until later in the week. Don't schedule meetings.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Confusion early in the week will turn into confidence, especially in practical matters.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): Be very creative. Art, writing or even talking on the phone should go very well for you.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): A member of your family could be a big help. He or she might have something you need, and be willing to loan it!

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Figure out exactly what you want to accomplish and write it down. You may need to refer back to your list.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Stay busy. Your good intentions could run into a snag, called fatigue. Make sure you take your vitamins.

LIBRA (23 September - 23 October): This week, do what you said you would do. Taking off on a tangent could be disastrous.

SCORPIO (24 October - 21 November): The week may be kind of slow, but your pace should pick up. You'll be in top form by Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Get organized. Some kind of sporting event might even lead to romance. Promise to get all work done by Sunday.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Although some people think Capricorns are always serious, that's just not true. You have a fine sense of humor.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Good week for writing papers, or making phone calls. You'll make a very favorable impression.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): It could be a tough week. You'll want to play, but you have to work. You might find yourself stalled.

TOP HITS

POP SINGLES

VIDEO RENTALS



1. End of the Road, Boyz II Men, Motown
2. Baby-Baby-Baby, TLC, Arista
3. This Used to Be My Playground, Madonna, Warner Bros
4. Baby Got Back, Sir-Mix-A-Lot, Reprise
5. November Rain, Guns N' Roses, Geffen
6. Just Another Day, Jon Secada, Epic
7. Wishin' on a Star, The Cover Girls, Epic
8. Give Him Something He Can Feel, En Vogue, Epic
9. Jam, Michael Jackson, Epic
10. Wishin' on a star, The Cover Girls, Epic

1. The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, Annabella Sciorra, Rebecca DeMornay, Warner Home Video (R-1992)
2. Hook, Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)
3. Star Trek VI, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)
4. Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
5. Bugsy, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Columbia TriStar Home Video (1991)
6. Addams Family, Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Paramount Home Video (PG-13 -1991)
7. JFK, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (R-1991)
8. Grand Canyon, Kevin Kline, Danny Glover, Fox Video (R-1991)
9. Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video, (PG-1991)
10. Shining Through, Michael Douglas, Melanie Griffith, Fox Video (R-1991)

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Agenda



Exhibition:

Under the patronage of HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, the American Center proudly presents "I Dream A World: portraits of black women who changed America". By Pulitzer prize winner Brian Lanker. The exhibit will run until 27 August.

The ambassador of the United States of America and Mrs Roger Harrison request the pleasure of your company at a reception on Thursday, August 27, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm to bid farewell to Mrs Jonathan Owen and Claud Young Jr and to welcome Mrs Peter Kovach and Jonathan Rice.

ALCAZAR HOTEL AQABA ANNOUNCES..

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Would You Believe.....

"Millie's Book," the "autobiography" of President Bush's dog, made nearly \$890,000 in royalties in 1991, according to the president's tax return.

The walls of the Kremlin in Moscow stretch for more than 1.5 miles.

Blue Mountain on the island of Jamaica rises to more than 7,400 feet. The weather is less than tropical at that height.

Some societies ban the tying of knots during marriage ceremonies for fear it will bring disaster to the bride and groom. The reasoning behind it varies from place to place.

On average, about 95 million U.S. residents are watching TV every day of the week during "prime time" evening hours.

Iceland is farther south than the vast majority of Greenland.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 — Rabbit
5 Gamut
10 Forever — day
14 Powerful emotion
15 Barfly
16 — Kampf
17 Waller
18 Following
19 Kind of muffin
20 Unwanted ones
22 Baltimore player
24 Prevalent
25 Med. sub.
26 Author of "Love Story"
29 Ant. old style
31 Cooking abbr.
34 Laud
36 Ots of baseball
37 Make public

DOWN

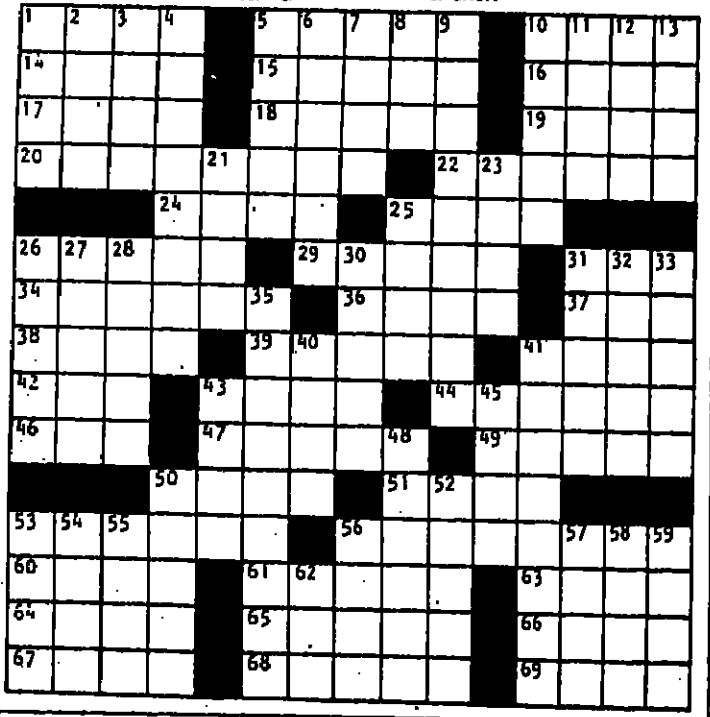
38 — go
39 Marshy inlet
41 Ration words
42 Negative prefix
43 Mountain cat
44 Grammar study
46 Physicians' abbr.
47 Inclined, as a ship
49 — now and then (occasionally)
50 Untamed
51 Actor's quest
53 Hunting expedition
56 Young trees
60 Story line
61 Ship over
63 Billy or nanny
64 See 38A
65 — on Sunday

ACROSS

66 In good health
67 Doe
68 Jeweled band
69 Fake
70 Savor
71 Shank's instrument
72 Delegate
73 Lively
74 Along with
75 Priests
76 Bitterly
77 Two
78 Shout
79 Stock exchange man
80 Liquid
81 Musical drama
82 Hastened
83 "I cannot tell —"
84 Golf cry
85 Hindu deity
86 Ark builder
87 Festive
88 Hall
89 Cat
90 Garland

DOWN

1 Political faction
2 Columnist
3 Holiday times
4 Hold in check
5 Body of officers
6 Java
7 Flats: abbr.
8 Merweather
9 Mistaken
10 Circumference
11 Sleuth
12 — M for
13 Murder
14 Bancroft
15 Lubricates
16 Deserter
17 Ordinance, for short



Solution

ACROSS
1 RABBIT
5 GAMUT
10 FOREVER DAY
14 POWERFUL EMOTION
15 BARFLY
16 KAMPF
17 WALLER
18 FOLLOWING
19 KIND OF MUFFIN
20 UNWANTED ONES
22 BALTIMORE PLAYER
24 PREVALENT
25 MED. SUB.
26 AUTHOR OF "LOVE STORY"
29 ANT. OLD STYLE
31 COOKING ABBR.
34 LAUD
36 OTS OF BASEBALL
37 MAKE PUBLIC

DOWN
38 GO
39 MARSHY INLET
41 RATION WORDS
42 NEGATIVE PREFIX
43 MOUNTAIN CAT
44 GRAMMAR STUDY
46 PHYSICIANS' ABBR.
47 INCLINED, AS A SHIP
49 NOW AND THEN (OCCASIONALLY)
50 UNTAMED
51 ACTOR'S QUEST
53 HUNTING EXPEDITION
56 YOUNG TREES
60 STORY LINE
61 SHIP OVER
63 BILLY OR NANNY
64 SEE 38A
65 ON SUNDAY

ACROSS
66 IN GOOD HEALTH
67 DOE
68 JEWELLED BAND
69 FAKE
70 SAVOR
71 SHANK'S INSTRUMENT
72 DELEGATE
73 LIVELY
74 ALONG WITH
75 PRIESTS
76 BITTERLY
77 TWO
78 SHOUT
79 STOCK EXCHANGE MAN
80 LIQUID
81 MUSICAL DRAMA
82 HASTENED
83 "I CANNOT TELL —"
84 GOLF CRY
85 HINDU DEITY
86 ARK BUILDER
87 FESTIVE
88 HALL
89 CAT
90 GARLAND

DOWN
1 POLITICAL FACTION
2 COLUMNIST
3 HOLIDAY TIMES
4 HOLD IN CHECK
5 BODY OF OFFICERS
6 JAVA
7 FLATS: ABBR.
8 MERWEATHER
9 MISTAKEN
10 CIRCUMFERENCE
11 SLEUTH
12 — M FOR
13 MURDER
14 BANCROFT
15 LUBRICATES
16 DESERTER
17 ORDINANCE, FOR SHORT

JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Discipline... Discipline...

"Give me one disciplined battalion for every three undisciplined ones my enemy has and I will win any battle."

General George Patton

DISCIPLINE IS probably the most important factor in the bidding. What do you gain if you deviate of your own system? You think that you may deceive the opponents, but actually you deceive your partner and your self! Take the following example from a serious team practice:

Dealer: North

EW: Vulnerable

♠ 9 7 5
♥ 3 2
♦ J 10 3
♣ Q J 7 6 5

♠ Q 2
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ A 8 4

♠ 3
♥ A K Q 10 8
♦ K Q 9 4
♣ K 10 5

WEST **NORTH** **EAST** **SOUTH**

Double Pass 24 (1) 4♥
Pass Pass 44 (1) Double
Pass Pass Pass

East violated his own system by opening a weak two opening with seven cards, his system promises six cards exactly. Watch what happened when his partner doubled the opponent's 4♥. East felt that his partner could be counting on spade tricks that he may not produce due to the unexpected extra length. Accordingly East pulled out his partner penalty double. Both contracts, 4♥ and 4♠, go one down, East exchanged his positive score by a negative one.

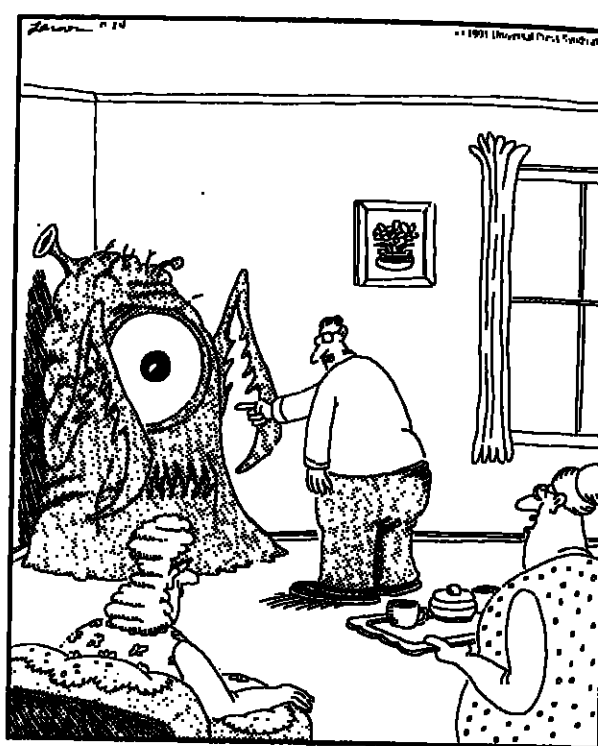
4♥ Doubled = +100
4♠ Doubled = -200
Total Lost = -300 (1)

Moreover, if East opened the system's 3♠ South may not intervene, and West, facing a vulnerable three spade opening may have bid the unbeatable three notrumps scoring 600! Best who was scared by his own vulnerability and panicked later, deserves the negative score. He surely knows that the only difference between the 2♠ opening and the 3♠ opening is the number of cards.

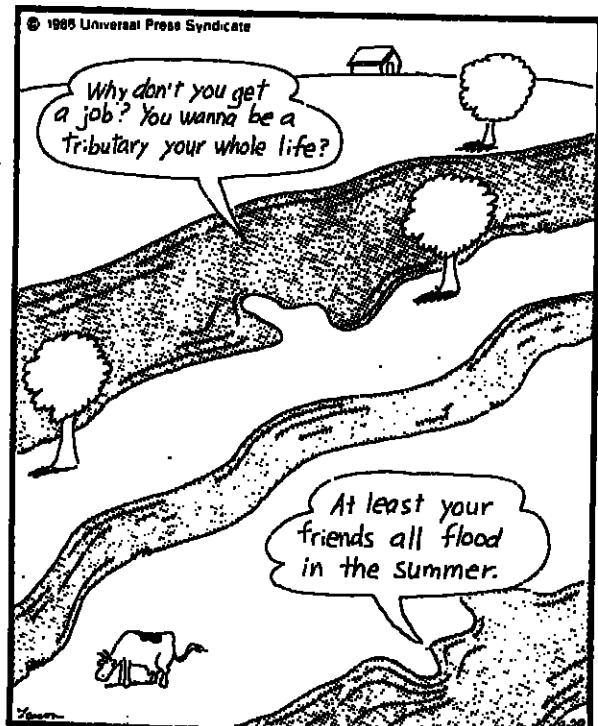
Now, time, when East opens 2♠, how many spade cards would he be holding?

THE FAR SIDE

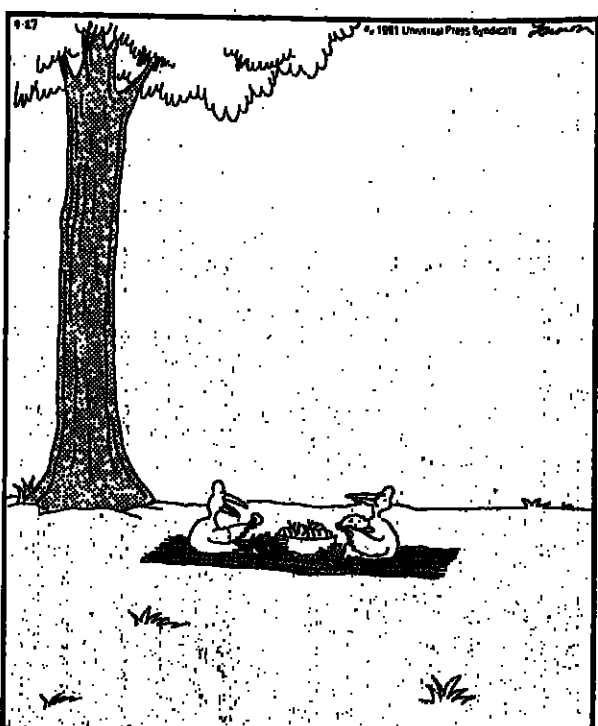
By GARY LARSON



"Whoa! Mr. Lewis! We don't know what that thing is or where it came from, but after what happened to the dog last week, we advise people not to touch it."



Parents of a lazy river



"Boy, that's good. But it's interesting, Bob... Do you think everybody's mother makes a different kind of potato bug salad?"

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	664148
Bahrain	675683
Belgian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677559
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	622324
French Consulate	623443
German	641273/4
Greek	669351
Hungarian	816614
Indian	637262
Irani	639331
Italian	638185
Japanese	630878
Korean	672486/7
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	828911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
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Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	622140
Swedish	644251/2
Swiss	669177/9
Syrian	686416/7
Tunisian	641076
Turkish	674307/8
United Arab Emirates	641251
United Kingdom	644369
United States of America	823100
USSR	644371
Yemen	641158
Delegation of the E.C.	668191
UNDP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
UNICEF	671530
Con. of Sri Lanka	629571
Con. of Iceland	645312
	698851

Airlines

Alymda (Air yemen)	653691
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666053 / 667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140
Allialia	625203
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	633606/656616
Hungarian Airlines	639295
Iberia	637827/644036
Irish Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kuwait Airlines	690144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
M.R.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
P.A.	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	678321
Romanian	639333
Russian Airlines	604649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	694301
Syrian Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
USAir	694501
British Air	622147
YACOM Romanians	637380
Yemen Airways	604649
Yugoslav Airlines	623430
Yugoslav Airways	659102
Yugoslav Airlines	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

Diary

Activities

Cultural centres

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Orthodox Club	810491
Hussein Youth City	667181/5
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

Cinemas

Concord	677420
Rainbow	625155
Plaza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijom	675571

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Assoc.	676990

Important Numbers

Emergencies

Amman Governorate	91228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbit	271292
Civil Defence Dept.	661111
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	630341
Police rescue	621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390
Electric Power Co.	636381/4
Water complaints	897467
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info	(08)53200

Hospitals

Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Khaledi Maternity	644281/6
Aldeh Maternity	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642662
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushar Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marika	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
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General

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
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Price complaints	661176
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Jordan and Middle East calls	10
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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrassanta Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq Tel. 811295.

Editorial & advertising telephone number: 648298

Distribution: Jordan Distribution Agency, telephone: 630191

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Dubai 4	
Fujairah 70	
Ghayathi 52	
Ras Al Khaimah 77	
Sharjah 6	
Umm Al Quwain 6	
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